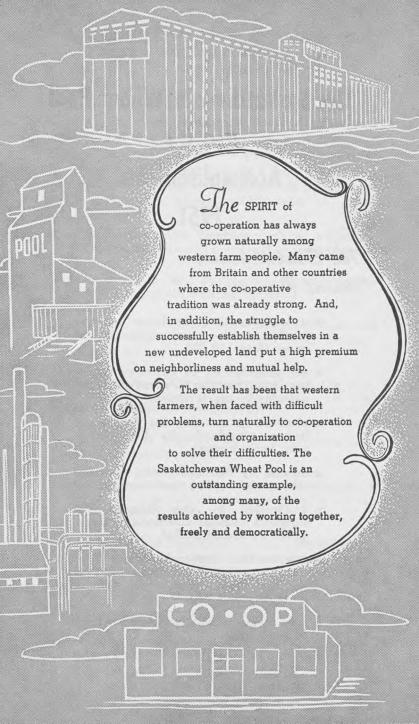
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The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and It's Accomplishments 1951

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is:

- » a co-operative business organization with a membership of more than 100,000.
- » an association of farmers working together for improved farm policies for agriculture.
- » constantly striving for improved living standards in Saskatchewan farm homes.
- » owned by Saskatchewan farmers who make up the membership.
- » controlled by the membership through annual elections of delegates by secret ballot.
- » represented throughout the Province by local organizations of its members known as Wheat Pool Committees.
- » now in its second quarter century of existence.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF A NUMBER OF WHEAT POOL ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICES

Note: It should be kept in mind that items in the following list which concern agricultural policy are, for the most part, joint achievements of organized farmers throughout Canada. In particular the work of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool as a farm organization is carried on in close co-operation with its sister Wheat Pool organizations in Alberta and Manitoba.

- 1.—Co-operative grain handling facilities which are available to farmers in every part of Saskatchewan.
- 2.—Large and modern co-operative facilities in the vital field of grain terminal operation.
- 3.—Earnings in its 25 years of operation of over \$75 million, from country elevator and terminal operation.
- Publication of The Western Producer, the fully independent weekly farm newspaper — a vital service to the farm community.
- 5.—Operation of a province-wide co-operative livestock marketing service.
- Construction and operation, in the interests of co-operative producers and consumers, of a flour mill and vegetable oil plant.
- Support of the negotiation of the Canada-United Kingdom Wheat Agreement as an interim post-war measure for the stabilization of wheat prices and markets.
- Instrumental in promoting the successful negotiation of an International Wheat Agreement as a permanent measure for the stabilization of wheat prices and markets.

- Elimination of speculation in the marketing of Canadian wheat. The Wheat Board made sole marketing agency in response to the organized demands of farmers.
- 10.—Enlargement of Wheat Board powers, making it the sole buyer of coarse grains delivered in the prairie provinces.
- Protection to the producer of products other than wheat through the Agricultural Prices Support Act.
- 12.—Instrumental in obtaining many improvements in the Canada Grain Act, including reclassification of grades of grain, raising of outturn grain standards at terminals, elimination of mixing at terminal elevators, improvements in inspection procedures, improvement of car order book regulations, and many others.
- 13.—Improving service to members in such ways as introducing the automatic sampler at terminal elevators, and establishing an inspection department at Winnipeg for the protection of the grower.
- 14.—Contributing to the drafting of both provincial and dominion debt legislation during the depression.
- 15.—Presentation of the views of farm people on such questions as increases in freight rates.
- Support of the Churchill route both before and since its construction.
- 17.—Promotion of the ideals and practices of the co-operative movement among young people through co-operative schools and citizenship days.
- 18.—Assisting, both financially and through participation in organization work, the development of new co-operative enterprise in the province.
- 19.—Young people's work, through sponsorship of boys' and girls' clubs in the country; grants to the

- University of Saskatchewan for extension; variety testing programs, etc.
- Contributing in the country to the successful carrying out of all worthwhile community enterprises.
- Training community leaders by reason of their participation in the country activities of the Wheat Pool.
- Provision of important services to the membership such as library service, seed germination testing, and smut testing.
- 23.—Weekly publication during the growing season of the most authoritative report on the condition of the Saskatchewan crop.
- 24.—United presentation of the views of the Pool membership on all matters affecting their welfare.
- Opposing, with considerable success, attempts to have the income tax applied to co-operative savings.
- 26.—Assisting in the successful formation and growth of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.
- 27.—Assisting in the successful formation of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, —spokesman for world farmers.
- 28.—Lending the assistance of the country organization facilities of the Wheat Pool in the promotion of important and worthwhile enterprises such as the distribution of information on weed control and other agricultural practices, and the raising of money for various relief appeals.
- 29.—Contributing, financially and otherwise, to the successful development of such educational projects as Farm Radio Forum.

FARMERS are proud of the part the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool has played in the epic of co-operative development on our prairies. Its members have built the Pool, from an idea and a hope, into a great organization owning elevators, industrial plants, a newspaper, and many other physical assets. All these things they know are theirs. But they have never lost sight of the fact that it is the **idea** that is important—the belief that in co-operation a just solution can be found to their economic difficulties. They have seen their belief justified, in actual practice.

As the years have gone by co-operation has become more and more a way of life—a special approach to the problems of living. There are few limits to what can be accomplished when co-operation becomes the guiding philosophy of large numbers of people.

Yet, in spite of its impressive achievements in the past, the greatest of the Wheat Pool's accomplishments probably lies, not in any particular service given, or inequity removed, but in what it has made possible for the future by laying firm foundations of co-operative thinking.

FINANCIAL POSITION AND EARNINGS

First, let us look at the overall Wheat Pool picture in terms of financial position, and the record of earnings.

The story is told in the diagram on page 7. The Pool membership has invested \$18,894,000 in the organization. Already considerably more than this total amount, \$26,265,000 of co-operative savings, has been paid out to members in cash. And in addition to making these payments, the Wheat Pool has built up fixed assets which belong to the growers representing a cost of \$39,281,000, or not much less than the total of investment and cash payments combined.

Investment of Members

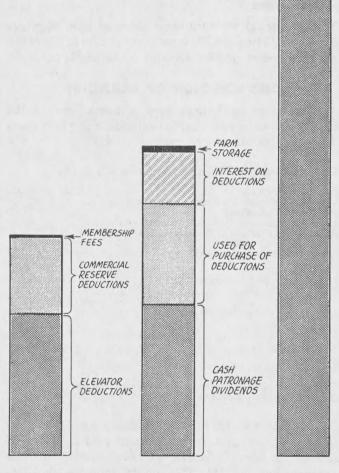
The investment of the membership in its organization, apart from \$138,000 in membership fees, is made up

THE FINANCIAL RECORD 1924-1950

\$18,894,000

\$26,265,000

\$39,281,000



INVESTMENT OF MEMBERS PAID TO MEMBERS IN CASH PAID BY POOL FOR FIXED ASSETS of \$12,188,000 of elevator deductions and \$6,568,000 of commercial reserves.

Elevator deductions represent money obtained from Pool members in the twenties at the rate of 2c per bushel for all the wheat they delivered under contract. These deductions have been used to expand the Pool elevator system.

Commercial reserves were obtained from members between 1924 and 1928, usually at the rate of 1% of the selling price of grain deliveries made under contract.

DISTRIBUTION OF EARNINGS

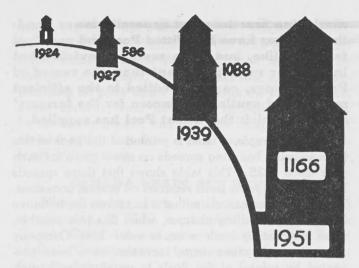
The following figures give a breakdown of the distribution of excess charges refunds, and other items distributed to growers as cash or credits.

Excess Charges Refunds to July 31, 1950

Paid to Growers	6,792,000 4,000
Total Excess Charges Refunds	\$24,399,000
Farm Storage Paid to Members (1928) Interest Paid on Elevator Deductions (1924-1925 to 1947-1948) Interest Paid on Commercial Reserves*	306,000
	0.000.000
GRAND TOTAL	.\$28,827,000

*Paid by parent company. (Interest on elevator deductions is paid by Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Limited.)

In addition to these items, approximately \$20,000,000 has been paid from earnings as principal and interest to the Saskatchewan Government on the overpayment liability. This figure includes the \$2,559,000 of excess charges refunds which were credited to growers' overpayment accounts from 1929-1930 to 1937-1938.



Fixed Assets

Built and purchased at a cost of \$39,281,000, the fixed assets of the Wheat Pool include country elevators, terminals, the flour mill and flax plant, livestock yards, the head office building and other property of various kinds.

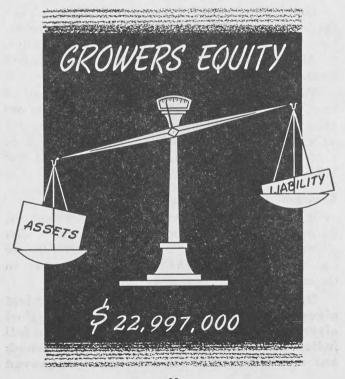
The elevator system represents the major part of fixed assets. The country elevators, of which there are about 1,166, represent an original cost of more than \$18 million. The three terminals, 7, 4A and 4B, have a combined capacity of 17,468,000 bushels, and cost \$12,700,000.

Growers' Equity

It is worth noting that on the books of the company, the equity of farmer members in the organization, after allowing for all liabilities, is shown at \$22,997,000 or considerably more than the investment of members in the organization.

It should be emphasized that the figures just given of the financial earnings of the Pool elevator and terminal systems do not give a full indication of the dollars and cents gain which has resulted from Pool activities. Improved marketing practices and generally lower handling charges have benefitted Pool and non-Pool farmers alike, and these savings, invisible but in sum far more important than the record of Pool earnings, can be credited to the efficient service and continued concern for the farmers' interests which the Wheat Pool has supplied.

As an example, a table is printed at the back of this book showing handling spreads on street grain for each year since 1925. This table shows that these spreads have over the years been reduced on several occasions. The Wheat Pool can claim that it has taken the initiative in reducing handling charges, when this was possible, often advocating such a move over Line Company opposition. At other times, increases have been prevented by refusal of the Pools to go along with such



action. For those years when the open market operated, it is well, too, to remember that the price actually paid to the farmer was the Winnipeg price, less handling charges, less freight, less a varying amount depending in part upon conditions on the market. These spreads were frequently excessive, especially for the lower grades, and since its inception, the Pool elevator system has done a great deal to prevent need-lessly wide spreads.

CANADA GRAIN ACT REVISED

After strenuous efforts, the Pools were instrumental in obtaining, in 1930, a complete re-writing of the Canada Grain Act, and a re-organization of the Board of Grain Commissioners. Improvements secured under the new Act were:

- 1.—The right of the grower to choose the terminal to which he wishes to ship his grain.
 - 2.—A re-classification of all grades of grain.
 - 3.—A curtailment of terminal elevator mixing.
- 4.—The raising of the outturn and export standard grades to approximate quality of primary inspection grades.
- 5.—Improvement in the handling of special bin grains.
- 6.—A more effective procedure by which a shipper can call for re-inspection and make appeal if not satisfied with the final inspection.
- 7.—Provision of a shrinkage allowance to elevators on grain handling, thus eliminating any possible need for elevator operators to recoup unavoidable losses by such doubtful practices as "taking the break of the beam" in weighing.

Note: The Pool itself operates its own grade checking department at Winnipeg as a protection to growers.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Wheat Pool has never confined itself to purely commercial business activities and it was never intended to do so. When the farmers of Saskatchewan organized the Pool on a province-wide scale, and ensured that it would always be controlled

and owned on a democratic co-operative basis, they built more than a business. They also built a farmers' organization which can truly represent and speak for the man on the land.

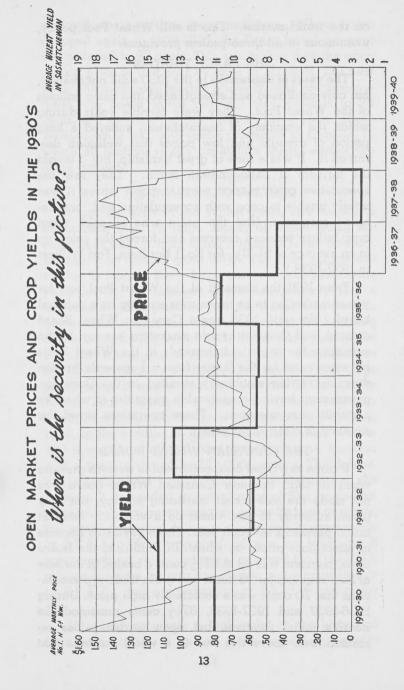
Historical Background

THE POOLING YEARS

The main feature of Wheat Pool policy for many years has been a demand for government marketing of the wheat crop under international agreement. To make this position clear, however, a word of explanation about the early activities of the Pool is in order. The Pool was not begun primarily as an elevator business. Its first job, and its main job, was to market the farmers' wheat through annual pools which would equalize returns to Pool growers. The combined policy of the three prairie Pools was to market Pool wheat directly to customers, by-passing as far as possible trading on the speculative market. These Pools were carried on, under contracts with growers, from 1924 until 1930.

Until 1929-1930 things went very well, and Pool members can be shown to have received a better and fairer price than did persons selling to Line companies. It was an attempt at orderly marketing of the grain crop over the year and was sound so far as it went. But the crash that brought down the world economy and the world wheat market with it, at the end of the twenties, showed that it didn't go far enough. It showed that the problem was a world problem, requiring measures of international co-operation for its solution, and that orderly marketing was possible only through planning extended over a period of years.

Farmers therefore turned again (the years prior to formation of the Pools were the first occasion) to their demand that Canadian wheat be marketed through the single agency of a Canadian Wheat Board, thus eliminating speculative marketing. They demanded also that international marketing agreements should be negotiated which would assure, not only equitable marketing arrangements at home, but planned orderly procedures



on the world market. This is still Wheat Pool policy, unanimous in all three prairie provinces.

THE EARLY THIRTIES

The years of depression in the 1930's did not change, but only confirmed and strengthened, the basic policies of the Wheat Pool. They were terrible years during which the economy of Saskatchewan suffered a long period of drought and low prices that well-nigh destroyed it. It was a time of great hardship, but it taught the farmers of Saskatchewan much. They saw the speculative grain market reach a point where it was utterly unable to cope with accumulating and "unsaleable" surpluses. (But the grain was all sold, when crop failure reduced reserves and forced the price up to an average of \$1.31½ for No. 1 Northern, Fort William in 1937-1938.)

From 1931 the demand of the Wheat Pool was for wheat marketing to be taken over entirely by a national board. Not until 1935 was a Canadian Wheat Board created, and then not as sole marketing agency. In the meantime the organized demands of the Wheat Pools for some relief for the farmer from a hopelessly broken down marketing machinery resulted in the Dominion government buying considerable quantities of wheat as a stabilization operation. These operations saved the situation to some slight extent.

THE CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

It came as a great disappointment to western growers when in 1935 the new Canadian Wheat Board was not made the sole wheat marketing agency, but only given authority to buy wheat on a voluntary basis at initial payments set each year. These payments became in effect floor prices on wheat. In 1935-1936 the Board initial payment was set at $87\frac{1}{2}$ cents a bushel in the face of Pool requests for 95 cents and grain trade representations that 70 cents was a sufficiently high price. During 1936-1937 and 1937-1938, $87\frac{1}{2}$ cents remained the Board's initial payment, but open market prices remained well above this due to a world shortage that

reduced stocks to their bare minimum. When prices dropped again in 1938-1939, the Board initial payment was reduced to 80 cents. This was higher than the open market price in that year by close to 20 cents. The next year, although open market prices showed an improvement, the Board initial payment was reduced to 70 cents, and remained at that level for three years. These were years of war, and rising prosperity in Canada, in which all sections of the population shared except the grain growers.

THE WARTIME SITUATION

It was the view of the Wheat Pools, now shown to be correct, that the large supply of wheat being accumulated was far from being a liability to the country, but rather an asset of great value. The open market was unable to finance these large carryovers at reasonable price levels, and farmers demanded strongly that a fair remunerative price be paid for wheat, and that the government assume sole responsibility for the handling of the crop. By the fall of 1941, in the third year of the 70 cent Wheat Board initial payment, dissatisfaction with the government's wheat policy reached very large proportions. It was at this time that the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool organized a program of mass meetings throughout the province which culminated, in February, 1942, in the sending to Ottawa of a delegation of some 400 farmers and other Saskatchewan citizens, together with a petition signed by 185,000 persons. The delegation was financed by contributions from signers of the petition. It demanded an initial price of \$1 a bushel for wheat, a policy of guaranteed fair prices for farm products, the establishment of delivery quotas and improvements in P.F.A.A. What was obtained was too little, but it was something; a 90 cent initial payment for 1942-1943; minimum prices for oats and barley; some amendments to P.F.A.A., and a fixed price of \$2.25 a bushel for flax.

This delegation was a high point in the history of farm organization. It gained some immediate benefits for farmers, and it put on record in no uncertain terms the demand of farmers for security and fair treatment in the sale of their products.

It is worth noting that for the three years of 70 cent initial payments, the open market price averaged above 70 cents, but less than the final return to farmers who delivered to the Wheat Board.

In the fall of 1943 wheat prices were rising on both the Chicago and Winnipeg exchanges. On September 28, 1943, the government announced that it would immediately take ownership of all stocks of wheat in Canada, except those on farms, and henceforth would be the sole buyer and seller of Canadian wheat. The initial Wheat Board payment was set at \$1.25 for No. 1, Northern. This move was a victory for the Wheat Pools, as it represented a fulfillment of one of their long-time demands—the elimination of speculation in Canadian wheat by making a national board the sole marketing agency.

By this time there had begun a rapid disappearance of wheat, not only for food but for feed, and alcohol production. It was becoming more and more obvious that the allies would win the war in the not too distant future and would soon need all the food that could be scraped together. It was now clearer than ever that to view wheat supplies as unwanted surplus, and to pay less-than-cost prices, had always been an unfair and unrealistic policy.

Post-War Developments

From the middle of 1943 until the 1948 harvest the wheat situation was marked by a steadily worsening supply position, and prices, wherever they were freed of controls, continued to rise. The year 1948, however, marked a definite improvement in world wheat supplies, and sharply lower prices, a trend which was continued in 1949. Throughout this period Wheat Pool members have realized clearly that the lure of very high prices immediately must not be allowed to wreck the chances

of western farmers for some arrangement whereby over a period of years they could be assured of stable and fair prices. Most farmers could easily recall that there had been high prices after the first war, but that these high prices had not lasted long under a system of unplanned, uncontrolled speculative marketing.

1944-1945

This crop year saw the end of the war and a steady reduction in world wheat supplies in spite of a record U.S. crop. Prices on the United States grain exchanges continued to rise, and in setting prices for export wheat the Canadian Wheat Board followed this trend until about June, 1945, when a halt was called as far as Canadian wheat was concerned at a price of \$1.55 No. 1 Northern, Fort William. From that time until the Canada United Kingdom wheat contract came into effect, Canada's price to its customers remained at this figure.

1946-1947

In July of 1946 the Dominion Government announced the signing of the Canada - United Kingdom wheat contract, and a few days later announced the government's domestic policy. The contract covered a four-year period. Under it Britain agreed:

- To buy at least 160 million bushels of wheat from Canada in each of the years 1946-1947 and 1947-1948 at a price of \$1.55 basis No. 1 Northern, Fort William.
- 2.—To buy at least 140 million bushels of wheat from Canada in 1948-1949 at a price (to be negotiated before the end of 1947) of not less than \$1.25.
- 3.—To buy at least 140 million bushels of wheat from Canada in 1949-1950 at a price (to be negotiated before the end of 1948) of not less than \$1.00.

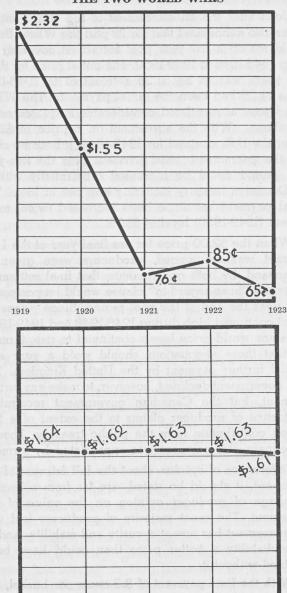
It was provided in the contract that in setting the price during the last two years "regard would be had" to the difference between the prices under the contract during the first two years and the "world" price during those two years. (The 1948-1949 and 1949-1950 prices were both set at \$2.00.)

This contract was supported by the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. It provided a welcome step toward realizing Wheat Pool principles of stability and security, although it was recognized that no solution could be entirely satisfactory short of a truly international wheat agreement. Not only did the contract provide for reasonable prices for consumers over a period of years but it prevented a return to open market trading in wheat in Canada. It is as well to note that the present compulsory powers of the Wheat Board were introduced by the government as a necessary move in the light of the contract obligations with Britain. There is no doubt that the contract made possible a preliminary stabilization of the wheat market which has made it considerably easier for the Canadian government to support continued stabilization through International Agreement.

Since the contract came into effect, wheat has continued in much shorter supply than seemed likely at the time. The 1947 European harvest was very nearly the worst in the experience of that continent. At the same time customer countries have become less and less able to pay for food imports. Charges that farmers have "lost" large sums of money by having to accept contract prices which were lower than U.S. export prices ignore two important factors:

- 1.—The Canada-United Kingdom contract was negotiated as a **stabilization** measure. If either party to the agreement could have been sure that, without an agreement, export prices would be neither higher nor lower than the contract price, there would have been no need of a contract in the first place.
- 2.—The existence of the contract has been a powerful help to Britain in obtaining E.C.A. allocations for purchases of Canadian wheat. Without such allocations, the pressure on Britain would have been very great to buy U.S. wheat, of which there has been a large surplus which is supported in

AVERAGE WHEAT PRICES RECEIVED BY SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS FOLLOWING THE TWO WORLD WARS



price. This in turn would almost certainly have depressed Canadian prices severely.

Soon after the announcement of the U.K. contract it was also announced that for its part the Wheat Board would set up a five-year pool for wheat covering the years 1945-1946 to 1949-1950. The initial price for these five years was to be \$1.35 retroactive to 1945-1946 when \$1.25 had been the initial payment. The Wheat Board soon accumulated considerable surpluses on its operations. With the agreement on a price of \$2.00 under the U.K. contract for 1948-1949, it became clear that the guaranteed initial payment over the five-year pool period could be increased substantially without the Dominion treasury incurring any risk of loss. The initial payment has since been increased twice, to its present (1949-1950) level of \$1.75.

When the \$2.00 price for the final year of the U.K. contract was announced, producers were given to understand, by both governments, that final settlement under the "have-regard-to" clause would be postponed until near the end of the pool period. Since prices for wheat continued high during 1948-1949 and 1949-1950, and since world price levels continued to rise, farmers felt that these negotiations should yield a very substantial further payment by the United Kingdom. The U.K. government declined, however, to make any further payment, but the Canadian government recognized the justice of producer claims to the extent of a \$65 million contribution from the public treasury. Though inadequate, this payment was appreciated by farmers.

Differences of opinion about the full fairness of the settlement, it should be stated, are far from reflecting a change of producer opinion on the value of the agreement. The great majority of producers feel that the agreement has meant security and stability, and in all probability a better price than could have been obtained without it.

With the final payment of 8.3 cents per bushel, the final price for the five-year pool is \$1.833 per bushel

basis 1 Northern at Fort William. The 8.3 cents is made up of about 4.6 cents from the \$65 million government payment and 3.7 cents from the Wheat Board surplus remaining at the end of the Pool period.

The Canada-United Kingdom wheat contract has been faced with much vocal criticism, which has come mainly, if not entirely, from Grain Trade interests and their supporters. The opposition of the grain trade, including elevator companies, is natural. The practice of marketing by agreement through a National Board removes all prospects of lucrative gains for speculators, and elevator companies are reduced to handling grain on a flat handling charge basis. The inability to buy on their own account, at prices determined on the Winnipeg futures market, removes many opportunities for profitable speculative trading.

The Present Position

The outstanding fact for western grain growers at the present time is that there is in existence an International Wheat Agreement which provides them with a considerable degree of price security for the next three years—to July 31, 1953. This agreement will be fully discussed in a separate section.

Along with the International Agreement the Canadian Wheat Board continues to operate as sole marketing agency for the Canadian wheat crop. For the year 1950-51 the initial price originally paid by the Wheat Board was \$1.40 per bushel for No. 1 Northern at Fort William. This was later raised to \$1.60 by an interim increase of 20c. The announced initial payments for 1951-1952 are: wheat \$1.40; oats 65c; barley 96c.

In 1950 over half the crop graded 5, 6 and feed, with the result that huge quantities of non-milling wheat were put on the market. There is little doubt that had the open market been operating, prices for these grades would have been depressed, during the delivery period, to very low levels. In fact, there was no collapse of feed grain selling prices. This is a good example of the advantage to producers of having an agency like the

Board which can carry through an orderly marketing procedure under difficult circumstances without the damaging price fluctuations that occur in an open market.

During 1950-1951, for the second year, the Canadian Wheat Board purchased all deliveries of oats and barley made by farmers in Western Canada. The decision of the government to make this extension of the functions of the Wheat Board marks a considerable step forward in grain marketing policy. However, the continued operation of the futures market in oats and barley, and the action of the Board in using the facilities of this market, and being guided by it in establishing selling prices, has reduced the usefulness of this move. Buyers of oats and barley continue to be faced with buying on a constantly fluctuating market, and western farmers still do not have a marketing agency which is prepared to establish an independent policy of orderly selling at fairly stable prices. The permanency of the eastern market for coarse grains is threatened by the instability of the present situation. The position can never be satisfactory until the influence of the speculative market in these grains is eliminated.

International Wheat Agreement

In the realm of wheat policy the fundamental aim of the Wheat Pool has been to see established an international agreement for the marketing of wheat, such agreement to provide for stabilized prices within a limited range over a period of years, with definite undertakings by both importers and exporters as to how much wheat they are prepared to buy or sell as the case may be.

It is a great triumph for the cause of a more prosperous world economy, as well as for the farmer, that an International Wheat Agreement has finally been negotiated and has been in operation for two of the four years during which it is to run.

The negotiation of the agreement took place in the spring of 1949, and at that time it was signed by five

exporting nations and 37 importing nations. There are now 41 importing countries who are parties to the agreement. Some original signers are not in, particularly China. Of the five exporters signing, four—Australia, Canada, France and the United States, have ratified the agreement. Uruguay did not ratify.

The agreement originally arranged for guaranteed maximum and minimum prices for a world trade in wheat totalling 456 million bushels. There have been substantial changes in this quantity since, the most important being the entry of Germany, which undertakes to buy about 66 million bushels a year at the minimum price. Canada's guaranteed exports, originally set at 203 million bushels, were increased by the entry of Germany by 8 million bushels for 1950-1951, 16 million bushels for 1951-1952 and 18 million bushels for 1952-1953. At the end of April, 1951, Canada's guaranteed quantity stood at 222 million bushels, her share of a total guaranteed quantity under the agreement of 563 million bushels.

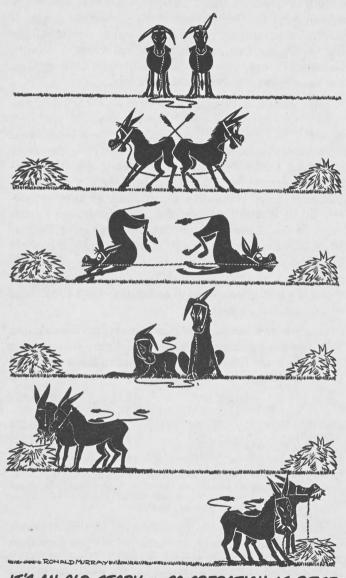
Under the agreement, maximum and minimum prices are as follows, in Canadian funds (the figures in brackets are the original prices set in the agreement before devaluation of the pound):

3 C X WT3 CT T3 C+

MAXIMUM"			MINI	MINIMUM"	
			No. 1 Nor.	Ft. Wm.	
1949-1950	\$1.91	(\$1.80)			(\$1.50)
1950-1951	1.91	(1.80)		\$1.48	(1.40)
1951-1952	1.91	(1.80)		1.38	(1.30)
1952-1953	1 91	(180)		1 27	(120)

*Note: With the exchange value of the Canadian dollar no longer pegged, the actual minimum and maximum prices for Canada under the agreement are subject to small fluctuations as the exchange rate fluctuates.

Unless prices reach the maximum or the minimum during a crop year there is no obligation upon importers to buy wheat, or upon exporters to sell. If prices reach the minimum, however, importers are required to buy up to the amount of their guaranteed purchases, if the exporters request that they do so. If prices reach the maximum, which has been the case to date, exporters



IT'S AN OLD STORY - CO-OPERATION IS BEST

are required to sell up to the amount of their guaranteed sales, if the importers request them to do so.

It is important to note that the agreement sets floor and ceiling prices for specified quantities of wheat and nothing more. Between the floor and ceiling, prices are to move freely, and each country is to carry on its marketing of wheat as it has done in the past, or as it might choose to do, provided only that prices are not artificially held up by exporters or forced down by importers.

The agreement does not aim to restrict the wheat market in any way. It aims only to protect consumers and producers from unreasonable prices and exploitation. Far from being a restrictive influence on trade, the agreement adds an element of stability to the world economy which will greatly assist in making possible greater freedom and expansion of trade.

Price Control and Price Support

In its 1951 submission to the Cabinet at Ottawa, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture had this to say about the farmer's attitude to price controls:

"The farmers of Canada are anxious to see implanted sound monetary and fiscal policies to prevent further inflation and protect the value of the consumer's dollar. It may be that in the near future the government will introduce general price controls. If so, such controls should be made effective clear across the board on all profits, prices and wages. To exempt the economic returns of any group would be to grant a privilege which cannot be justified.

"Our Federation is on record as requesting the government to name a competent body to undertake a continuous study of the position of the various economic groups and to make recommendations looking towards the most equitable basis possible upon which to impose controls if and when such are needed. This is vital because under general price control the government or its agency must assume the heavy responsibility of

determining the relative fairness of returns between the various groups within the economy. It was with this in mind, and recalling the unfortunate position of agriculture in 1941 at the time of the former price freeze, that we made the proposal referred to.

"In any adjustment of prices which may be necessary to establish a basis of equality, the matter of costs of production is an important factor. While generally speaking farm prices have shown little change over the past two years, farm costs of production have been steadily rising. This continuous rise in prices of essential farm materials has now become a strong deterrent factor to sound farm production."

Farmers are fully aware of the problems and difficulties which must be faced in carrying out any sound farm policy. International monetary and political conditions, more or less beyond Canada's control, will play a large part in the outcome. But there is nothing to be gained by allowing agriculture to slip, either quickly or by slow stages, into depression. This would only increase the difficulties that Canada will face in the economic field.

Agriculture is an industry which is basic to the economy, essential to its health and welfare, and presenting its own special problems requiring special solutions.

Whatever may be the best policy for dealing with the economic problems of the rest of the economy, there is one thing that is certain: farm price support by the government must not be looked upon as a form of relief. Price supports are not relief payments. They are one of the means by which the whole industry of agriculture may be kept prosperous and productive, and the entire economy benefitted.

One of the main planks in Canada's agricultural policy is the Agricultural Prices Support Act which was passed in 1944 as a transition measure to "endeavour

to ensure adequate and stable returns for agriculture and . . . secure a fair relationship between the returns from agriculture and those from other occupations." This Act has been made a permanent part of the country's legislation, rather than a transitional measure. In the limited use made of the Act so far the feeling of farmers has been that there is a tendency to set support prices too low in relation to the farmer's costs.

The fact that general price support legislation is in existence, however, is a triumph for the organized demand of farmers that such legislation should be a permanent feature of farm policy.

Boxcar Shortage—1951

With the approach of spring and the opening of navigation in 1951 it became apparent that an extremely serious boxcar situation threatened—a situation that might mean the loss of many millions of dollars to western grain growers. Unless box car supplies improved very greatly, the prospect was that:

- 1.—The Canadian Wheat Board would not be able to fill its commitments for delivery of grain.
- The opportunity of selling feed wheat on a strong export market in the United States might be lost to a great extent.
- Large supplies of grain on farms, much of it out of condition, would be threatened with spoilage.

About the end of March the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool wrote to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Transport, and other interested ministers, outlining the extreme urgency of the situation. Wide publicity was also given to the matter through the press. The Wheat Pool believes that the immediate and striking improvement in boxcar loadings that followed was undoubtedly achieved partly as a result of the efforts of the Pool in bringing the matter forcibly to the attention of the responsible ministers and the country at large. Up to

the present (early June), the improved supply of cars has been maintained. However, a serious bottleneck has developed at the terminals due to lack of lake transport. This situation is causing a great deal of concern to the Pool, and steps are being taken to bring the matter forcibly to the attention of the government and the public.

THE WHEAT POOL 9-POINT POLICY

The following is the nine-point statement of future policy which was adopted by Wheat Pool delegates at their annual meeting in November 1950. It is largely self-explanatory.

- 1.—Full support of The Canadian Wheat Board in a program for the orderly marketing of western grown grains.
- Full support of the principle inherent in the International Wheat Agreement as the basis upon which the international trade in wheat should be carried on.
- 3.—Support for the application of the Agricultural Prices Support Act for the maintenance of adequate floor prices of those farm commodities to which the Act applies.
- 4.—Your Board will continue to urge for a satisfactory adjusting payment in the final settlement of the 5-year wheat pool which will include:
- (a) A payment of approximately 48 million dollars, representing the amount by which wheat producers subsidized the people of Canada in the consumption of wheat during the period 1st March 1945 to 17th February 1947.
- (b) A further payment representing the cash value to western wheat growers of the "will have regard to" clause in the Canada-U.K. Wheat Agreement.
- 5.—Your Board will continue to urge that the initial payment for the current crop season should have

- been \$1.60 per bushel basis 1 Northern at Lakehead, and will reiterate the request for an interim payment on grain already delivered to the Board to bring the amount received by growers up to this level.
- 6.—In connection with the marketing of coarse grains, your Board will continue to urge upon the government that this should be the sole responsibility of the Canadian Wheat Board and that the speculative market should not be used in its operations.
- 7.—Through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture your Board will continue to support the principle of international commodity agreements for the orderly international marketing of farm commodities in the interests of producer and consumer.
- 8.—In the livestock field your Board will continue to urge that the compulsory practice relating to the carcass grading of hogs and hog products should be eliminated and that it should be replaced by a compulsory system of either live grading or carcass grading at the option of the producer.
- 9.—The loss sustained in this year's grain production points up the need for an adequate scheme of crop insurance and it will be the policy of your Board that an adequate scheme of crop insurance should be worked out jointly by Dominion and Provincial authorities, the cost to be borne jointly by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and by the producers.

FARMER UNITY

The greatest strength of the farm movement in Canada today probably lies in the fact that it presents a united front stretching from the Maritimes to British Columbia. This is accomplished through the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, which is composed of provincial and regional federations of farmer organizations, many of them co-operatives. The C.F.A. has grown to maturity during the years of the war, and now occupies an undisputed place as the representative of organized farmers throughout Canada.

Through its Ottawa headquarters the C.F.A. constantly presents (working in many cases with the farm organizations most directly concerned) the viewpoint of Canadian farmers on all matters affecting Canadian agriculture. The Wheat Pool has from the first played a leading part in the formation and development of the C.F.A. It believes that an agricultural policy that is worth while must be a Canadian agricultural policy.

Looking beyond the boundaries of Canada we find that the Canadian Federation is a member of the I.F.A.P.—the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. Farmer (not government) representatives of twenty-six countries are members of this organization, which was formed in 1946 and finally set up on a permanent basis in 1947. The I.F.A.P. will not only show that the farmers of the world understand their basic community of interests, but it will translate that unity into definite policies and recommendations. One immediate task is to give support, assistance and guidance to F.A.O.—the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The I.F.A.P. has from the first made the negotiation of an International Wheat Agreement one of its first objectives.



A word about F.A.O. is also essential. This world organization, established by governments, is dedicated to the betterment of the world's food supply and the improvement of the farmer's lot. It has no other powers than advisory ones. Its interests are in the fields of nutrition, food production and distribution. It provides the machinery necessary for a world-wide attack on the problems of food and agriculture, but the machinery is no good without the will to set it in effective operation. One task of the I.F.A.P. is to show the governments of the twenty-six member countries that farmers, at least, are united behind the attempt to make F.A.O. work. The signing of an International Wheat Agreement was a great step forward toward the accomplishment of the aims of F.A.O., and one which F.A.O. itself strongly advocates.

LIVESTOCK

As at July 31, 1950, Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited finished its sixth full year of operations since amalgamation with the Wheat Pool in May of 1944. During these six years, the Livestock Pool has built public stockyards and established fully competitive markets at three points in the province—Swift Current, Yorkton and North Battleford—where none were before. The North Battleford yard, the one most recently opened, began operations in September 1949.

The objective in establishing these new yards was to put producers in all parts of the province close to fully competitive public markets. It was felt that prices to producers remote from regular markets did not keep in line with wholesale market prices. In connection with the success of this policy, the 1949 Annual Report of the Wheat Pool states:

"Your Board is satisfied that the establishment of markets at these points, with prices fully in line with outside markets, has raised the basic price of livestock not only to Pool members but also to all livestock producers in the surrounding area."

Auction Selling

The traditional method of selling livestock at public stockyards has been by private treaty, and while this method has not been unsatisfactory, there has recently been a development toward the auction method. Probably part of the reason for this development has been the lifting of the embargo on shipments of live cattle, calves, sheep and lambs to the United States, and the resultant outside buying competition that has developed.

In hopes of taking greater advantage of this buying competition, the auction method of selling livestock was introduced at the Saskatoon public market last September. It is the opinion of the Manager of the livestock subsidiary that this auction method of selling has certain advantages.

It provides all resident buyers, as well as outside buying interests, an equal opportunity to bid on all livestock offered. It also offers the producer interested in purchasing his own replacement cattle, the opportunity of bidding. While buying competition quite definitely exists on public markets under private treaty selling, this competition is not always as apparent to the average producer as is the case under the auction method.

In consequence, the Pool's livestock subsidiary decided to institute auction sales of livestock at its own markets at Regina, North Battleford, Yorkton and Swift Current.

The method of selling will remain entirely optional with the producer. Pool members and patrons delivering livestock to their own selling agencies now established at seven points in Saskatchewan, are assured of having a thoroughly qualified livestock man on hand to look out for their interests, regardless of whether they choose the auction or private treaty system of selling. These Pool men are also in a position to advise producers the method which, in their opinion, will net the highest returns as a result of varying conditions in the trade.

Operations

During the year ended July 31, 1950, net earnings of Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited amounted to \$23,286 after making provision for income taxes.

Service at cost is the first requirement of a true co-operative. But the greatest advantage to marketing through the Livestock Pool lies in this: That by using his own organization the farmer obtains the full benefit of expert marketing service which has no other object than to serve him cheaply and efficiently. The assurance of this kind of treatment cannot be obtained in any other way. In addition, by using such co-operative service the Pool farmer increases his knowledge of marketing problems and livestock values. Greater market knowledge among farmers will do a great deal to stabilize livestock markets.

Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited now owns and operates public stockyards at Regina, Swift Current, Yorkton and North Battleford. The organization provides central marketing services at Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw, as well as at the points where it operates yards. It is also a joint owner of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited, along with co-operative livestock organizations in Alberta and Manitoba. C.L.C. provides a marketing service at St. Boniface, Manitoba.

In Saskatchewan, livestock is shipped by rail and truck. The opening of the new yards has, of course, greatly enlarged the trucking area. At some rail points there are independent shippers and at others cooperative shippers employed directly by the Pool. There are also some local co-operative associations through which livestock may be marketed co-operatively.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

Industrial Processing of farm products is the latest field of co-operative activity entered by the Wheat

Pool. To date the program embraces oil extraction from flaxseed, and the milling of flour and feed.

At the outset one point should be made plain. This program is being carried out with the fullest co-operation between the Wheat Pool and the province's consumer co-operatives, represented mainly by Federated Co-operatives, the provincial wholesale. There is agreement among co-operators in Saskatchewan that producer-owned co-operatives and consumer co-operatives shall, in general, avoid duplication of services, and, whoever may be doing a particular job, the benefits shall be equitably shared by producers and consumers. The success of the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan in developing a high degree of co-operation between producer and consumer interests is a matter of pride to the whole co-operative movement.

Flax Plant

The vegetable oil plant at Saskatoon commenced operations in the spring of 1947. Since that time it has marketed its products, linseed oil and oil cake meal, to a wide market, both domestic and export. These products are of high quality and have been well received. The plant has met with some difficulty in doing business in export oil contracts under the extremely speculative conditions of the open flax market. Exchange shortages are also a serious limiting factor.

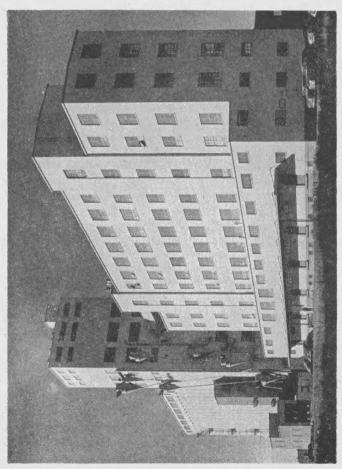
On the domestic market, satisfactory progress is being made in developing sales in the western provinces.

The plant is equipped with three large expellers, capable of crushing 1,950 bushels of flax daily. It also has refinery facilities which enable it to take full advantage of demand for refined linseed oil of various types, as well as for raw oil.

Flour Mill

The flour mill, which came into operation in the spring of 1949, is the most up-to-date available, with a capacity of 1,000 barrels of flour daily. There is also a

The
Saskatchewan
Wheat Pool
Flour Mill and
Flax Plant
at
Saskatoon



feed plant and one-half million bushels of storage capacity. With the opening of the Pool mill, a small mill operated by Federated Co-operatives at Outlook was closed by agreement between it and the Pool. Distribution of flour and feed is made through co-operative and private domestic outlets and on the export market.

In today's flour business, it is not enough for flour to be clean, wholesome, and white, though of course these things are essential. Flour manufacturing today might be compared to the otherwise unrelated business of making nuts and bolts. However good a particular bolt may be in itself, it is of no use to the buyer unless it is exactly the right size. Bakers and others who purchase flour also demand, not just good flour, but flour that exactly fits their needs, as regards things like ash and protein content. The quality must be uniform from day to day, month to month, and year to year, for any particular kind of flour. Also, flours must be produced on demand, to definite specifications.

Obviously, the mill does not receive wheat of uniform and exact quality. A good, efficient mill is one that is able to blend wheat and flour in such a way as to get exactly the product required. The Wheat Pool's mill is equipped with all the most modern machinery to do this, and in this respect cannot be matched by any mill in Canada.

The equipment is there to thoroughly wash, clean, and condition the wheat, and to blend wheat from different lots to get the right overall grade. At all stages of the very complicated system of grinding, separating and sifting, streams of flour can be mixed at will, with automatic control of the amounts from each stream. The result is a flour that comes up exactly to specifications. To do this, however, requires that the miller know at all times the quality of all the different lots of wheat, flour, bran, etc., that are going through the mill. This is made possible by laboratories, located in the mill, that conduct constant tests.

The Pool mill is air-conditioned throughout, with exact control of moisture and temperature, also it is bright and airy. All these things are essential to making the best flour.

One special feature of the mill is its heated flour storage, where the flour is aged. This heated storage not only speeds up the ageing process, but makes it possible to deliver flour to bakers with the chill off, ready to be used immediately without a slow warming-up period. A final blending of the flour, to meet special needs, is possible as the flour is moved from storage to the final packing. At this stage also it is given a sifting through silk bolting cloth, as a final precaution against any foreign matter being in the flour as it is delivered.

Wheat Pool members, and customers, can be assured that this mill is capable of giving the best possible service, with maximum efficiency. All reports on Pool flour to date are to the effect that it is very good flour indeed, whether the user is a baker or a housewife, in Canada or in export markets.

Since it began operations the mill has found markets for its flour from British Columbia to the Maritimes, and in the export market from the Orient to the West Indies. The flour has been found very acceptable by all buyers due to its high quality and its market in Canada has been steadily expanding.

General

The policy of the Wheat Pool is to keep in close and constant touch with developments in the field of industrial processing of farm products.

Close relations are maintained with the National Research Council, which has a well-equipped laboratory at the University of Saskatchewan for research in farm products.

FREIGHT RATES

Since 1946, when the railways made their first postwar application for a 30% across-the-board increase

in freight rate charges, a series of decisions by the Board of Transport Commissioners has resulted:

- l.—In a general increase in rates amounting to 45% over pre-war rates.
- 2.—Individual increases in addition to the 45%, on a number of commodities, notably farm machinery and livestock.
- Corresponding increases in numerous service charges made by the railways.

As a result of the opposition to these increases expressed throughout Canada, except in Quebec and Ontario, a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate and report on the economic and other disadvantages, if any, suffered by any parts of Canada; to review the Railway Act and recommend any needed amendments; to review and report on the capital structure and accounting methods of the railways, and in general to investigate all matters of economic policy connected with the railroads that are within the jurisdiction of the Federal parliament.

The Commission has reported, and in general its report bears out the contention of the western provinces that the horizontal rate increases that have been given result in increasing discrimination against western Canada. It also supported western farmers in their demand that Crow's Nest Pass rates be retained, and left under the jurisdiction of Parliament. The report recommends that the Federal Government bear the cost of operating the portion of the railroad north of the Great Lakes, in order to in effect reduce the geographical disadvantage suffered by western Canada. It also recommends that a general policy of rate equalization be put into effect as far as possible, and that as far as possible the regulation of rail, air, water and truck transport be put under a single regulatory board.

How far these recommendations, if they are put into effect, will improve the situation remains to be seen. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool will continue to give close study to developments, and do all it can to protect the interests of western farmers. Since 1946 the Wheat Pool has, on its own or in co-operation with the other Wheat Pools, presented briefs protesting the application for a 30% freight rate increase, the livestock rate increase and the proposal made by the railways to the Royal Commission that Crow's Nest Pass rates on grain be raised and put under the control of the Board of Transport Commissioners. It also presented a separate brief to the Royal Commission representing the interest of western farmers in freight rates generally.

The Wheat Pool feels that the increases in rates that have been granted, and the way in which they have been granted, have been quite unjustified. In particular it objects to the decision regarding a special increase in livestock rates. A further application for a 19% rate increase is now before the Board, and the Pool will do everything possible to prevent further unjustified raising of freight costs in western Canada.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Wheat Pool Members have used their organization in a number of ways to supply themselves with necessary services of several kinds. It is one of the advantages of any co-operative organization that it provides a ready means for this kind of self help. Some of the Wheat Pool services are listed below.

Weekly Crop Reports

As a service to its members the Pool organized a statistical department and inaugurated a system of comprehensive weekly crop reports. These reports are now considered the most authoritative that are being issued.

Germination Tests

The Pool renders great service by maintaining facilities for making germination tests. Since this service was inaugurated, to July 31, 1950, 333,252 germination tests have been conducted; many samples have been checked for grade and dockage and many more were prepared and distributed among school children. Since August, 1929, when this work was first started, to July

31, 1950, there have been 56,585 individual moisture tests made in the Pool laboratory.

Smut Testing

Members may have the grain which they intend to use or sell for seed tested for smut and other seed borne diseases. This free service may be obtained by taking a sample of grain to the nearest Pool elevator agent. Tests are made by Associated Laboratory Services Limited, Saskatoon.

Variety Testing Program

The Pool each year conducts a scientific provincewide program of variety testing which contributes to the development of suitable varieties of wheat and other grains. This annual project is made possible by Junior Co-operators who plant and care for individual tests on their farms. The results of these tests are a valuable and regularly used source of information on the performance of new grain varieties.

Aids Junior Extension Work

Among the most successful of Pool projects has been the development, in co-operation with the Extension Department of the University of Saskatchewan, of Junior Grain, Calf and Swine Clubs and Home Craft Clubs. These clubs foster in young people a greater appreciation of farm and home life.

Library Service

A comprehensive lending library is maintained at Head Office for members and staff of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. This is a useful service and one which is much used and appreciated.

APPENDIX I

SASKATCHEWAN POOL ELEVATORS LIMITED

Schedule of Handling Charges—1925-1926 to 1950-1951

Season

M	H	CA	T	
н	G	T	G	

Season	H.G	. L.G.	0.	B.	F.	R.
	C	C	C	С	С	С
1926-1927 1927-1928 1928-1929 1929-1930 1930-1931 1931-1932 1932-1933 1933-1934 1934-1935	ool 4 5 4 4 7 5 0.M. 4 7 4 7 7 8 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	5 5 4 4 4 6 4 4 4	- 433333½3½33½33½33½2	-5444444444444	- 10 10 10 10 10 7 7 7	- 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4
1935-1930	O.M. 4	4	31/6	4	8	4
1936-1937	D.M. 4	4	31/2	4	8	4
1937-1938C	O.M. 5½ V.B. 4½	51/2	3½ 3½ 4½ 4½	51/2	8	- 4 4 5½ - 5
1938-1939V	V.B. 41/2	51/2	4	-	_	_
1939-1940V	O.M. 5 V.B. 41/2	5		5	8	5
1939-1940) M 5	5/2	4	5	8	5
1940-1941V	V.B. 4 V.B. 4 V.B. 4 V.B. 4 V.B. 4 V.B. 5 V.B. 3	5 5 1/2 5 5 5 5 5 5 3	4	5		-
1941-1942 V	D.M. 5 V.B. 4	5			- 8 8½ 9 8½ - 7½	5 - 5 - 3 - 3
1941-1942	V.D. 4	5	4	5	01/2	5
1942-1943 V	D.M. 5 V.B. 3 D.M. – V.B. 3	3	_	_	81/2	_
C	O.M. –		2½ 2½ 2½	3	-/2	3
1943-1944V	O.M. – V.B. 3	3	-	3	71/2	-
1944-1945V	V.B. 1 V.B. 1 V.B. 3	1	21/2	3	3	3
	D.M		1	11/2	_	5
1945-1946V	D.M. – V.B. 3	3	3	- '	5	-
10401047	O.M. – V.B. 3	3	3	3½ - 4½	5	5
1946-1947V	V.B. 3		4	41/	5	-
1947-1948 V	V.B. 3 O.M. – V.B. 3 V.B. 31/2	31/2	4	41/2	8	5 - 5 - 5 - 5
	O.M. – V.B. 4½	- /2	5	6	_	5
1948-1949V	O.M. – V.B. 4½	41/2	41/2	_	-	71/4
1949-1950V			41/2	5½ 4½	9	71/4
1949-1950	V.B. 41/2	4/2	31/2	4/2	8	51/2
1950-1951V	O.M. – V.B. 4½ O.M. –	41/2	31/2	41/2		-
C	D.M		- /2	- /2	10	51/2
						100

Note: W.B. —Wheat Board
O.M. —Open Market
H.G. —High grades 1, 2 and 3 Nor.
L.G. —Low Grades
O. —Oats B. Barley F. -Flax R. -Rye

APPENDIX II

Distribution of Excess Charges Refunds to Members from 1925

	Cash Refund	1/4c All Grains	lc All Grains	lc Wheat %c Flax	1/2c O.B. & Rye	Ic O.B. & Rye 4.12c Wheat & Flax	3.62c O.B. & Kye				
Retained for Purchase of	Deductions	1/4c All Grains	lc All Grains	lc Wheat	1/2c O.B. & Rye 1/2c All Grains	1/2c All Grains	34c Wheat & Flax	1.66c All Grains	O.55c All Grains	1/2c All Grains	
	Total Refund	1939-40 1/2c All Grains	1940-41 2c All Grains	1941-42 2c Wheat	1942-43 2c Wheat & Flax	1943-44 4.62c Wheat & Flax	1944-45 11/2c Wheat & Flax		1946-47 0.55c All Grains	1948-49 1/2c All Grains	1949-50
Delivered Over Platform	11/2c Wheat; 1/2c C.G.	lc All Grain	lc All Grain	-	19	761	194	194	194	194	194
Delivered Through Pool Elevators	1925-262c Wheat; lc C.G.	1926-271%c All Grain	1927-281½c All Grain	1928-2934c All Grain							
	1	7	i	4:	2						

1%c All Grains

1%c All Grains

